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VISTA

Since 1965, Volunteers In Service To America has been a triumph of self-help for America's poor.

VISTA volunteers come from varied backgrounds, with varied ages and experiences. Perhaps that is why they have been the spark needed to turn around poverty situations that have existed in this country for decades. Today there are more than 4,000 VISTA volunteers, serving in rural and urban communities, helping people become their own advocates for the resources and services they need.

The following pages tell VISTA's story: the realization out of which it grew, the vision that gave it life, and the 70,000 volunteers who have made it work for more than 15 years. If you are interested in becoming a VISTA volunteer, the last pages will provide information on eligibility, training, and financial support.

The Many Faces of Poverty

All across America, tucked away in hollows or along creeks, are little clusters of cabins and shanties that hardly anyone sees. Such places rarely have names, and don't show up on maps. They are camouflaged. Their decrepit wood and metal buildings, turned rusty gray or dull brown, blend with the land. The people who live here share those grays and browns—in their eyes, in their skin, and in their view of the future.

In the early 1960s, with the help of a few journalists, a shocked and wondering nation "rediscovered" its poor. From the pages of newspapers and the screens of televisions stared miners whose daily wage was only six or eight dollars. A rich and oblivious nation saw, as if for the first time, the pinched faces of coal miners' daughters and sons, so poor and ragged that they seemed to be from some other, more primitive culture, rather than from our own.

In the cities were other, almost universal scenes: the halls of tenement buildings on the west side of Manhattan, smelling of garbage and the residue of a thousand drunks; pitted walls, peeling paint and dangling pipes that reflected the disintegrating lives of the people who lived there.

The Measure of Poverty

In 1964, when President Lyndon Johnson proclaimed the war on poverty, over 33 million Americans were officially designated as poor. That number declined to 25 million and has stayed there ever since. These millions of people form a persistent bedrock of deprivation in this land, which has been centuries in the making.

Thomas Jefferson had said, "Men by their constitutions are naturally divided into two parties: Those who fear and distrust the people, and wish to draw all powers from them into the hands of the higher classes; and those who identify themselves with the people, have confidence in them, cherish and consider them as the most honest and sane, although not the most wise, depository of the public interests . . . If we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take from them, but to inform their discretion."

But history has a way of obscuring even the purest and most powerful ideas. To be full participants in the fruits of this land is, for all this nation's people, the ideal consequence of what the founding fathers originally intended. But in the accelerated economic and cultural change of a new country seeking to mature, that ideal became lost to certain fragile segments of the population. The process of loss—and the need for redemption—is what led to VISTA.

Ever since the New Deal, the federal government has been creating programs in response to emergencies, perceived needs, and continuing efforts to make society more equitable.

At the heart of VISTA is a commitment to the welfare of one's fellow man, and its lifeblood, the dedication and compassion of the men and women who are at work on its behalf.

VISTA volunteers have demonstrated the true spirit and the substance of brotherhood. They have made a difference in many lives, bringing help and hope to those locked in the wrenching vise of poverty and despair, and carrying in a very personal way the promise of this great democracy to the unfortunate.

Lady Bird Johnson

These programs were greatly needed, and to a large extent they succeeded in putting a floor under the economy and safety nets under the poor. But for individual citizens, the cumulative effect of federal intervention has been to erode, slowly but surely, the sense that by their participation in such programs, people will have control over their own destinies.

There have always been those ready to voice their pessimism about the poor—equipped with an arsenal of discouraging adjectives, describing them as primitive, parochial, unreachable, backward, and fundamentally different in their values and goals. But the truest sense has come from those who have been through the backwaters of poverty with their eyes and their hearts open. No more perceptive voice is heard than Robert Coles. He wrote:

"If I have learned anything from the work I've done with migrant farmers, sharecroppers, tenant farmers, and mountain families, it is that the people 'we' consider so distant and backward, may well be more capable of changing themselves than our nation is of changing itself. Of course despair and hostility appear regularly among people who are hungry and have no significant work. Yet, given a chance, 'they' don't have to be that way. I've seen enough to know that."

The Riptides of Change

The early 1960s were ripe for change. The post-war baby boom had cascaded the raw energy and concern of millions of teenagers onto the American scene. Some students and preachers started a movement for civil rights, the most basic kind of citizen participation. A few mayors and foundations tried to head off urban violence by forming new majorities in public decisionmaking.

With incredible speed, a vast outpouring of diverse energies and motivations funnelled into a swirling set of open-ended phrases and programs. "Community action," "maximum feasible participation," "a war against poverty." Some critics claimed the effort really represented nothing more than the machinations of professional reformers with a romantic quest for community in a disillusioned world.

A Mississippi welfare mother disagreed. A Wolfe County, Kentucky mountaineer disagreed. The only justification for a poverty war in his eyes, was "to do what needs doing," and not just what the poverty warriors wanted. Citizen participation was not

Thousands and thousands of our neediest families have been helped through the unselfish efforts of our VISTA volunteers. The VISTA program has, time and time again, proven to be a wise Federal investment, with the resulting benefits far outdistancing a relative minimal expenditure. More importantly, however, the program has provided an opportunity for Americans of all ages to aid their fellow-Americans. We owe these many volunteers a debt of gratitude for their dedicated and hard work.

Congressman Carl Perkins (D-KY)

a new idea. It was one freighted with the democratic rhetoric of the founding fathers, and one which social workers had been trying for years.

In one sense, citizen participation is an end in itself—an affirmation of democracy. Edgar Cahn wrote that "our national wealth was founded on land from the Indian. Our industrial wealth from coal, iron and steel, was cast at the cost of human life in the scarred mountains of Appalachia. Our cotton and textile industry was spun from black slavery. Our overwhelming agricultural yield is annually produced with the peonage of migrant workers. This land belongs to all of us. If one must live in poverty, then participation as an assertion of citizenship, and an expression of dignity, may well be the only way to claim a portion of that national heritage."

Building "competent communities," breaking the bonds of dependency, and creating self-reliance are the heart of VISTA's mission. More and more VISTA volunteers are themselves low-income persons who were raised in the communities they serve. VISTA represents the fullest expression of the federal government's commitment to fighting poverty with a citizen participation strategy. VISTA has one meaning: "Together, we can do it ourselves."

The Beginnings

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy sanctioned the formation of a study group to examine the feasibility of a "domestic Peace Corps," motivated by the realization that existing government efforts were often too detached to fathom truly the needs of the poor. Support among the populace and from the press was heartening. *Life* magazine editorialized, "The well of American idealism is still deep, especially on campuses. Why not channel it into the many undeniable pockets of need that deface our own prosperity?"

Vigorous opposition in the House of Representatives killed the bill to start what was then called the National Service Corps. But under President Lyndon Johnson, the idea came to life again, as part of the bill to create the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO). In searching for a name for the volunteer effort, it was Hyman Bookbinder, a member of the original study group who suggested Volunteers In Service To America, and its acronym, VISTA.

With Sargent Shriver at the helm, the Office of Economic Opportunity set about fulfilling its mandate: "the elimination of poverty . . . by opening to everyone the opportunity to work and the opportunity to live in decency and dignity." VISTA was unique among OEO programs. It did not offer job training or funding. VISTA was people. Among the 13 volunteers who left that first six-week training program were a Baptist minister, a retired Naval officer, and an 81-year-old psychologist.

Despite growing pains, the young program made an impact on the peo-

ple it served and on the nation. In 1966, VISTA redirected its recruiting, seeking volunteers who were residents of the communities they served. George Sampson, Community Volunteer Coordinator from 1967 to 1971, remembers, "It was a new idea back then, that a federal agency would be willing to waive the standard requirements to recruit community volunteers who did not expressly meet the selection criteria. At first there was some skepticism on the part of the applicants, but once we got talking, once the applicants began to express their ideas about how they perceived community needs, we knew we were headed in the right direction."

Throughout the 1970s, VISTA volunteers challenged the inequities of poverty, which relegated the poor to isolation and, too often, rendered them hopeless. It is a ten-year record of significant gains: With VISTA's help, black lung became an issue in the coal fields. In New York and San Francisco, VISTAs and local sponsors led a national effort to develop pretrial release programs to relieve the injustices of the bail-bonding system. In health care, food stamp, and legal service programs, the role of VISTA volunteers was significant in effecting positive change.

It has been VISTA's role to encourage and bolster, to suggest channels for the anger, idealism, and talents of the poor. No one would deny that the union has so far been a fruitful one. In laws changed, movements launched and programs established, in forms as concrete as more food on the table or a banner to rally under, and in forms as intangible as spirits lifted, VISTA has made a difference.

The values, the skills and the experience of VISTA volunteers and their sponsors are exactly what the United States needs as we get ready for the twenty-first century. We need leaders who know how to work *with* people—not on them. We need activists who understand how to make policy from the bottom up—not impose it from the top down. We need the dedication, the commitment, and the idealism of VISTA volunteers.

Congresswoman Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD)

Current Programs

VISTAs work for 700 sponsoring organizations in 2,000 locations. Fifty-two percent of those organizations are tribal councils, community action agencies, universities, government agencies, and church-related organizations. The other 48 percent are various kinds of private nonprofit organizations, with goals and policies determined by the poverty-level populations who need them.

Anyone who becomes a VISTA volunteer today will work with the poor on projects that reflect current and changing needs. VISTAs work in the areas of health (9%), food and water (4%), skills development (17%), economic development (7%), housing (16%), energy (3%), community services (38%), and legal rights (10%). It costs $5,700 to maintain a VISTA for a year in the field; but the average VISTA mobilizes $24,000 worth of funds, resources and services for the sponsoring organization.

- A VISTA volunteer involved in *community development* might train groups to research and write funding proposals, or might canvass neighborhoods to seek out existing resources.
- In the area of *economic development*, a VISTA volunteer might help set up a credit union or food cooperative, or aid in attracting business or industries to a poor community in order to alleviate unemployment.
- VISTA volunteers involved in *education* work in non-traditional ways to help provide education to those in need. They might organize an adult literacy program, or provide educational services to people with learning disabilities.
- In the field of *health*, volunteers help to develop services in areas where they are inadequate or non-existent. VISTA volunteers in health might help organize rehabilitation programs for soon-to-be discharged mental patients. Or, they might help develop rape and abuse crisis centers.
- Volunteers who work in the field of *energy* help low-income people lessen the hardships brought on by rising utility rates. VISTAs might establish block clubs to exchange ideas and information on energy conservation, or organize cooperative home insulation programs.

The other VISTA areas, *housing*, *energy*, and *legal rights*, are described in the following more detailed discussions of current VISTA projects. Some of the projects discussed pursue goals in a combination of areas.

(Top) *The harbor on Kodiak.* (Above) *Vast distances make providing services to Native Alaskans difficult. VISTA volunteers have facilitated the process in many parts of Alaska.*

Kodiak Area Native Association

(Community Development, Housing)

In 1978, the Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA) sponsored three VISTA volunteers, who came to Alaska to work with the six rural communities on Kodiak Island.

Bill Osborne, a fish and game biologist, came to help stimulate the salmon industry for native fishermen. He organized stream quality monitoring projects in the villages. Since hatcheries require skilled and knowledgeable managers, Osborne drew up a proposal for the introduction of an aquaculture course, which KANA's Rural Education Board approved for introduction into the four high schools.

Bob Peterson, a Peace Corps veteran and economic planner, and Tom Azumbrado, an architectural designer, came as VISTAs to help establish functioning community planning committees in the six villages. Village members eventually assumed direct responsibility for the creation of an overall economic development plan for the Kodiak Island villages. In Ouzinkie, a health clinic was funded and built; housing was constructed from Tom's plans in Port Lyons, with funding from Housing and Urban Development; electrification was expanded to houses and buildings in Larsen Bay, Karluk, and Akhiok; the clinic in Kodiak was renovated.

In 1979, Tom and Bill were hired by KANA to continue their work. Bob Peterson left Kodiak to participate in similar projects in the Seattle area.

VISTA

Over 70,000 dedicated VISTA volunteers have freely given of their time and services to help improve the lives of their less fortunate neighbors. They have done so through participation in grassroots, nonprofit and social services organizations within those communities which have most needed their help. The patriotism, idealism, and devotion which these selfless volunteers have demonstrated through their efforts are accomplishments and characteristics of which every American should be proud.

Senator Jacob Javits (R-NY)

The Berkeley Center for Independent Living

(Education, Health, Community Development)

The converted automobile agency on Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley, California, doesn't sell cars anymore. It sells possibilities. The 800 or so disabled people who come to the Berkeley Center for Independent Living (CIL) every month receive about 3,400 separate services—everything from wheelchair repair to job training.

The Berkeley Center was founded in 1972 by a group of disabled individuals who felt that large numbers of people with disabilities could live on their own, free of institutions, if only they had access to counseling, equipment repair, and advocacy.

Eight VISTA volunteers contribute in a wide variety of ways. Two of them work on the Center's publication. Two are peer counselors for the deaf; one works to promote building accessibility for the disabled. One VISTA works in rehabilitation counseling and another is involved in outreach. The eighth is in blind services. Of the eight volunteers, all but two are disabled.

No one lives at the Berkeley Center. Its purpose is not to perpetuate the use of sheltering environments, but to help clients make the transition to living in the community. Material gains in law, education, and technology do much to bring down the barriers to independence for the disabled. But they leave standing the barrier of misunderstanding—the stubborn and destructive "otherness" that society persists in attaching to those with disabilities. That barrier too will fall, through the efforts of organizations like CIL. Nothing crumbles prejudice like familiarity. Nothing promotes familiarity as well as the disabled living and working in the community.

(Left to right) *VISTA volunteer Linda Stradley with attendant referral counselor Wes Querpo, Gary Grey, attendant referral counselor, with a friend. Leigh Barker, CIL supervisor, talks with clients of the Disability Law Resource Center.*

Westtown Concerned Citizens Coalition

(Legal Rights, Economic Development, Community Development)

They have come to ask questions, to make accusations, to speak in a single voice for Hispanic Americans who have been discriminated against. They are 400 strong, these members of inner-city block clubs and civic organizations who challenge the flagrant violation of equal opportunity mandates. Because of their convictions, they are able to confront one of the largest publishing companies in Chicago and demand to know why out of 3,500 employees, only 35 are Hispanic.

The Westtown Concerned Citizens Coalition is known as a "no-nonsense group," and with good reason. Their track record is impressive. Over a two-year period, the Coalition's members initiated stronger affirmative action hiring practices in the Chicago branch of the U.S. Postal Service. In April 1979, a progressive job pact was signed, opening up over 400 Postal Service job slots for men and women of Hispanic background.

"We are totally committed to the idea of *local* leadership," VISTA Supervisor Peter Earle explains. "That is why the VISTAs who serve with us act as organizers, not substitutes for community leaders."

The seven VISTA Volunteers who work for the Coalition are locally recruited. They put in long, hard hours organizing the Hispanic community into block clubs, which in turn form civic associations which in turn have a larger, more visible role in the Coalition itself. "Sometimes the block clubs fail," Earle admits. "Sometimes people aren't ready for the commitment, and believe me, citizen action is a big commitment."

Meeting in a settlement house, members of the Coalicion Accion Latina *challenge the affirmative action hiring practices of one of the largest publishing companies in Chicago.*

The Association for Neighborhood Development

(Energy)

Lately, the Association for Neighborhood Development (AND) in East Harlem has been turning its attention to energy problems. The organization has been teaching community residents to do boiler repairs and weatherization using ordinary, inexpensive materials.

Two VISTA volunteers, Bob Dow and Selwyn Eiber, were instrumental in convincing an East Harlem high school to institute a vocational course called "Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Resources." Students from the course will develop the mechanical, electrical and plumbing skills necessary to install solar hot water equipment on community-controlled buildings. The VISTA volunteers have identified an ex-offenders' halfway house and a building scheduled for rehabilitation as likely sites for installation.

After doing a careful study, Dow and Eiber concluded that a community-based solar hot water company was not economically feasible. But with student labor, and solar systems from a minority manufacturer, the Association for Neighborhood Development should be able to install solar hot water heaters at no cost to residents. "And the solar heaters will cut hot water costs by 50 percent," according to Dow and Eiber.

VISTAs Selwyn Eiber (left) *and Robert Dow take measurements for solar hot water panels on one of two apartment buildings that have been approved for an experiment in the use of solar energy.*

I have known and worked with many anti-poverty programs in and out of government, at home and abroad, over the years, but VISTA has a special meaning for me. VISTA volunteers help the poor to help themselves. VISTA works.

Andrew Young

They are in every state. Two thirds are female. They are white (70%), black (21%), Hispanic (5%), Native American (2%), and Asian (2%). Although almost half (47%) are between 18 and 27, another 12 percent are over 60. In 1979, there were 3,900 VISTA volunteers. Since 1964, there have been 70,000. Eleven percent have graduate degrees; nine percent never went to high school. Two thirds of them are poor.

These are VISTAs. They speak in many accents, with many points of view. They speak with courage of hard work and hope.

Joe Riemer, Massachusetts Association for Older Americans

There are 43 of us volunteers, all over 55. Our function is to provide services to our age group as well as the disabled and the blind. We are trained thoroughly and continuously to act as advocates in specific areas like Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and housing.

We had a case in South Boston: a woman, 89 years old, a widow, sitting in this dilapidated housing project that had been abandoned. She had been looking for an apartment for five years so she could get out of there. She'd been in a wheelchair, with all her earthly possessions piled up around her, ready to move at a moment's notice, as soon as she got the word that they had a suitable apartment for her. She could shuffle to the bathroom and shuffle to the refrigerator, and that was *it*. For five years, she didn't sleep in a bed.

The case had been kicked around by everybody else for five years. In desperation she wrote us a letter—she had no phone—asking if we could help. We got it resolved, got her an apartment, and now she's happy.

If the rewards didn't outweigh the frustrations, I'd be up in the insane hospital. We *all* get frustrated. If we didn't get the best in training, and have a sponsor that was totally dedicated, it wouldn't work at all.

Richard Copeland, VISTA volunteer, West Georgia Farmers Cooperative

My day-to-day job is out in the community with real poor people, trying to develop better income and better living conditions. One thing we've been able to do is set up feeder-pig projects. We go out and interview people to see if they can take care of a sow and raise the piglets. Then when the piglets are ready for market, we help sell them.

I came from a poor family. And in my 25 or 30 years of experience around the country, I've seen a great need for somebody to get out and help people to try to help themselves.

I can go into some areas now that I've worked in and really see a benefit. VISTA has done a great job to create peace of mind for people. It helps them to help themselves, and not always depend on someone else for a job. This is the unique thing about it. To help people grow out of poverty.

Lou Vitale, VISTA Supervisor, ARIAC Crafts Cooperative, Arkansas

I really like the old concept of working yourself out of a job. We did a self-help housing project in one county. Except for the first few families that came in, they wouldn't know VISTA from shmista. And there's a multimillion dollar health program over here that we wrote and pulled off a few years back. If you told the people that are over there now that we were involved at the beginning, why they might think that you were a liar. That's the only way to do this job. When you get done with something, you spin it off and go on to something else.

Rick Bank, former VISTA Volunteer with Appalachian Volunteers in southern West Virginia

Unlike some parts of the country, the part of Appalachia in which we were working was uniformly poor. We worked in coal camps and former coal camps, organizing disabled miners around welfare issues. Those people understood what their problems were. It was a question of not having the expertise or the ability to identify, locate, and communicate with other people who felt similarly. That expertise is what VISTAs were able to bring to the situation. They didn't have to identify the needs.

That program led us to black lung issues because, obviously, black lung is what had disabled so many of the miners. . . . Dealing with them personally, and seeing the appalling conditions under which they lived had a huge effect on me. It's what made me stay in West Virginia after I left VISTA.

I always felt that I wanted to do something socially useful. What VISTA did was to confirm that completely, and to open my eyes to things that, as a kid brought up in a middle class environment, I had never seen before. VISTA was the critical experience of my life in terms of putting me on a certain track in what I felt I needed to do.

Susan Scott, VISTA Volunteer, Farmworkers Service Center/Cooperativa Colonia Mexicano Unita, Woodland, California

The area around Woodland, California is tomato country. In the late 60's and early 70's, massive mechanization put a lot of the farmworkers here out of work. A group of them, who had been involved in United Farm Workers organizing efforts earlier, decided to start the Service Center to train farmers to work for themselves.

They needed an attorney, and I was so impressed with what they were doing that I wanted very much to work here. If there hadn't been a VISTA slot available, I wouldn't have been able to.

This is a comfortable place—a place in which farmers can socialize, and when they do, they meet farmers who are starting co-ops. They see the material around the office that demonstrates the value of belonging to a cooperative. So it's really a training center, not just a band-aid approach. As long as they need assistance, they might as well come to a place that is working for structural change.

VISTA Recruitment Information

VISTA is a part of ACTION, the federal volunteer service agency.

Eligibility: VISTA volunteers must be U.S. citizens or residents. They must be at least 18 years old, although most are over twenty. There is no upper age limit. For most assignments, a college degree is not required. What *is* required is a serious commitment to bring about change. Specific skills are less important than a talent for understanding, patience, flexibility, imagination, and hard work.

Training: All volunteers receive the training they need to fulfill their assignments.

Support: VISTAs receive a monthly subsistence allowance that allows them to live at the same level as the low-income community in which they serve. The allowance covers the cost of food, housing, utilities, and incidentals.

VISTA allowances do not reduce the Social Security, welfare or food stamp benefits that volunteers may be receiving at the time their service begins. VISTA volunteers receive comprehensive health and dental coverage. They are entitled to seven days of vacation a year for which they receive an additional $10 a day allowance. There is no financial allowance or health insurance for dependents.

Upon completion of their assignments, VISTAs receive a $75 stipend for every month that they were in service.

Former VISTA volunteers are granted non-competitive eligibility for federal positions for one year following their service.

Life in VISTA: Many VISTA volunteers serve in their own communities. Others serve many miles from home, in areas where conditions are unlike anything they have ever known. Life as a VISTA can be hard; not everyone can cope with the long hours or the change in lifestyle. But VISTAs overwhelmingly agree that the hardships are worth it.

VISTA's role is to try to mobilize resources—to support the efforts of community members in pursuit of goals that those community members specify. VISTA volunteers seek to help develop efforts that will become self-sustaining and will exist after the volunteers have left.

VISTA continues to demonstrate that the spirit of altruism—the commitment to serve others first—is still very much a part of the American character.

VISTA volunteers belie the social criticism of the 1970s as the "me-first" era. They have quietly and continuously worked with the people and problems of poverty in America to improve living conditions, be it in the areas of health, education, housing, economic development, legal services, or nutrition, and to bring a spirit of hope for a better tomorrow to the less privileged among us. VISTA volunteers reflect the capacity of Americans for compassion, caring, and generosity.

Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA)

VISTA/Peace Corps Recruitment Offices

This is a list of the area offices where you can reach VISTA/Peace Corps representatives. Or, you may call Washington, D.C. toll-free (800) 424-8580, extension 93.

VISTA/Peace Corps Recruiting Office
26 Federal Plaza
Room 1607
New York, New York 10278
212-264-7123

VISTA/Peace Corps Recruiting Office
Federal Building, Room 317
100 State Street
Rochester, New York 14614
716-263-5896

VISTA/Peace Corps Recruiting Office
McCormack P.O. & Courthouse
Building, Room 1405
Boston, Massachusetts 02109
617-223-7366

VISTA/Peace Corps Recruiting Office
P.O. Box 4752
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00905
809-753-4694

VISTA/Peace Corps Recruiting Office
1713 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20525
202-254-7346
toll-free 800-424-8580, ext. 26 or 38

VISTA/Peace Corps Recruiting Office
U.S. Customs House
Second and Chestnut Sts.
Room 102-A
Philadelphia, Pa. 19106
toll free 800-523-0974 (outside Pa.)
toll free 800-462-1589 (Pa. only)

VISTA/Peace Corps Recruiting Office
101 Marietta Street, N.W.
Room 2207
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
404-221-2932
toll-free 800-241-3862 (outside Ga.)

VISTA/Peace Corps Recruiting Office
1 North Wacker Drive
Room 203
Chicago, Illinois 60606
312-353-4990

VISTA/Peace Corps Recruiting Office
P.V. McNamara Federal Bldg.
Room M-74
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48226
313-226-7928
Ohio *only* 800-521-8686

VISTA/Peace Corps Recruiting Office
Gateway II Building, Rm. 318
4th & State Streets
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
816-374-4556

VISTA/Peace Corps Recruiting Office
Old Federal Building, Rm. 104
212 Third Avenue, South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401
612-725-2596

VISTA/Peace Corps Recruiting Office
ACTION
400 N. Ervay, Rm. 264
Dallas, Texas 75201
214-767-5435

VISTA/Peace Corps Recruiting Office
1845 Sherman Street, Rm. 103
Denver, Colorado 80203
303-837-4173

VISTA/Peace Corps Recruiting Office
515 Congress Avenue
Suite 1414
Austin, Texas 78701
512-397-5925

VISTA/Peace Corps Recruiting Office
1375 Sutter Street
Suite 210
San Francisco, California 94109
415-556-8400

VISTA/Peace Corps Recruiting Office
522 North Central Street
Room 205-A
Phoenix, Arizona 85004
602-261-6621

VISTA/Peace Corps Recruiting Office
1601 Second Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101
206-442-5490

VISTA/Peace Corps Recruiting Office
9911 West Pico Boulevard
Suite B-16
Los Angeles, California 90035
213-824-7742

VISTA/Peace Corps Recruiting Office
1220 S.W. Morrison St.
Room 333
Portland, Oregon 97205
503-221-2411

VISTA/Peace Corps Recruiting Office
Downtown Post Office
815 E St., Rm. 211
San Diego, California 92101
714-895-6331

There is no discrimination because of race, color, national origin, age, political beliefs, sex or religion. All VISTA services are administered on a non-discrimination basis. Anyone who feels he/she has been discriminated against may write to the Assistant Director for Compliance, ACTION, Washington, D.C. 20525.